

- 24 -

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Subay  
B1

1. <sup>act</sup> A disposable undergarment having longitudinally opposite end regions and transversely opposite side regions, comprising

5 a liquid-impervious base sheet defining a non-skin-facing side and a liquid-absorbent panel placed upon said base sheet and defining a skin-facing side opposed to said non-skin-facing side; said undergarment further comprising an elastically stretchable and substantially liquid-impervious skin-facing  
10 sheet being attached to said skin-facing side so as to cover said panel, said skin-facing sheet having fixed regions lying on said longitudinally opposite end regions and joined to said skin-facing side, a longitudinally middle region extending between said fixed regions and normally biased to be spaced  
15 apart upward from said panel as said undergarment is curved in a longitudinal direction thereof with the skin-facing side inside, a pair of transversely opposite side regions curving transversely inward on both sides of said longitudinally middle region so as to define a pair of leg-holes and at least one  
20 opening formed in said longitudinally middle region; and

a basis weight of said skin-facing sheet being higher in said transversely opposite side regions for the leg-holes than in a remaining region of said skin-facing sheet and a tensile

10016411-121001

- 25 -

stress of said skin-facing sheet is higher in said transversely opposite side regions for the leg-holes than in the remaining region.

Sub 95  
cont.  
B1

2. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a basis weight of said skin-facing sheet is higher in a peripheral edge region of said opening than the remaining region and a tensile stress of said skin-facing sheet is higher in said peripheral edge region of said opening than in the remaining region.

Sub 95  
B1

3. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein a bulging line extends on said skin-facing sheet in said longitudinal direction in vicinity of a longitudinal center line of said skin-facing sheet and wherein said bulging line is formed by folding overlappingly a part of the surface of said skin-facing sheet opposed to said skin-facing side and joining said part together.

Sub 96  
B1

4. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 3, wherein said skin-facing sheet is folded back at least once along said transversely opposite side regions for the leg-holes and said peripheral edge region of said opening so as to increase the

Sub 97  
B1

- 26 -

*Sub 27  
cont.*

basis weight and the tensile stress of said skin-facing sheet in said transversely opposite side regions and said peripheral edge region of said opening.

*Sub 31*

5. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, further including a pair of substantially liquid-impervious leak-barrier sheets extending in the longitudinal direction along said transversely opposite side regions of said undergarment and disposed between said base sheet and said skin-facing sheet, each of said leak-barrier sheets having longitudinally opposite fixed end regions joined to said longitudinally opposite end regions of said undergarment, a fixed bottom region joined to each of said transversely opposite side regions of said undergarment and a fixed top region joined to the surface of said skin-facing sheet opposite to the leak-barrier sheet.

*Sub 32  
ad*

6. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 5, wherein said leak-barrier sheets are elastically stretchable and wherein said skin-facing sheet and said leak-barrier sheets are attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-facing side of said undergarment.

*Sub 33  
ad*

7. The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein

- 27 -

Subax  
BI  
said transversely opposite side regions of said skin-facing  
sheet for the leg-holes lie ~~inside~~ said transversely opposite  
side regions of said base sheet.

20016444-121001